

Feedback from Community Budget Summit Participants

Comments on budget or livability issues

- Look for more ways to partner with other organizations and businesses, etc. Think about partnerships with businesses as well as non-profits and other government agencies. Partner better with school districts
- Maintain and improve gathering spaces. We need new urbanization plans expanded. We need more “place-making” areas, like the cafes in Europe, for smaller children, kids, teens and older. Make areas for more community meeting places. We need Wi-Fi stations—areas for compilers and gathering of information
- Keep spending within the budget! Don't fun today with future payment (i.e. don't increase debt funding). Work with Microsoft vs. working against Microsoft. Work with county and regional and state vs. giving up
- I would like to see the Senior Center open in the evenings to draw the younger seniors to the center—more staffing. I would like to see the codes more enforced regarding Roy (Wagner)-Education Hill neighborhood
- If the City has not fully funded basic services (police, fire, utilities, parks, roads), and you're still paying for non-basic services, don't increase taxes. It's insulting to place a sculpture on the lawn at City Hall when you have to close fire stations or under staff police. No luxuries until the basics are funded. Once the basics are funded, move to livability issues that have the greatest impact and are reasonably sustainable. Only those items that are sustainable should be added. If it can't be sustained, don't do it. Don't listen to too many experts. They have an interest in continuing the issue rather than so living it and are invested in current thinking rather than inventive thinking. Outsource administrative services where cost-effective.
- Affordable housing for Americans and for people who want to be Americans, to include Police and Fire Department personnel in school and training. Open spaces, passive space, preserve views in parks and maintain 290 for parks. Ease traffic—new development pays for infrastructure. Exceed national standards for Fire/Police. Love the flower pots. Maintain trails. I think we are lucky—home owners offer their home/land at market rate near parks—with more land near roads, parks and trails for open space and development we will be better off in the future. Build splash parks. Re: global warming: maintain parks, local trees, fire prevention.
- Continue to provide and enhance livability—parks, bike trails, etc.
- Make the preliminary budget more detailed and transparent. Address emergency/disaster preparedness much more thoroughly. Help the newly formed RCCC, especially the CERT program, to succeed and expand rapidly.
- Keep the funding of public services and capital budget the same as today. Public service should be a priority over capital projects.
- You guys are awesome!
- Cut spending. Quit wasting money on fluff.
- City must live by its own rules! Also, must lead in policies and goals for whole Puget Sound Basin.

Comments on meeting process

- Wanted more opportunity to cut items. In addition to "I want" statement, also needed "I would cut..."
- Meeting too long—cut video and first break out
- Excellent meeting! Keep us informed—and the organization of this meeting was exceptional. ***Please do something about "Roy" and fire problems*** - Kate Berndt-happypurplekate@msn.com, 10009 161st Ave NE, 425-883-7088.
- Nice job of announcing event, setting of event (defining the process), running the event
- It's been interesting, but frequently too short to adequately address many issues
- Thank you
- The meeting is a great way for City/citizen communication. Also good for educating citizens on how the City works.
- The committee who was supposed to combine highly similar or redundant statements did a poor job.
- We need more meetings like this!
- I felt this evening's process of randomly assigned small groups was exceptional and provided excellent communication and a very effective forum for addressing the City's issues. The color-coated cards were not necessarily the most efficient means of voting. Also, "basic" and "quality" were relatively ambiguously stated terms. Good meeting.
- Meeting much too long. Survey presentation a waste.
- Good process—but, may have been skewed by number of City staff
- Excellent! Great exercise in raising understanding, learning and communication with fellow citizens, staff and Mayor.